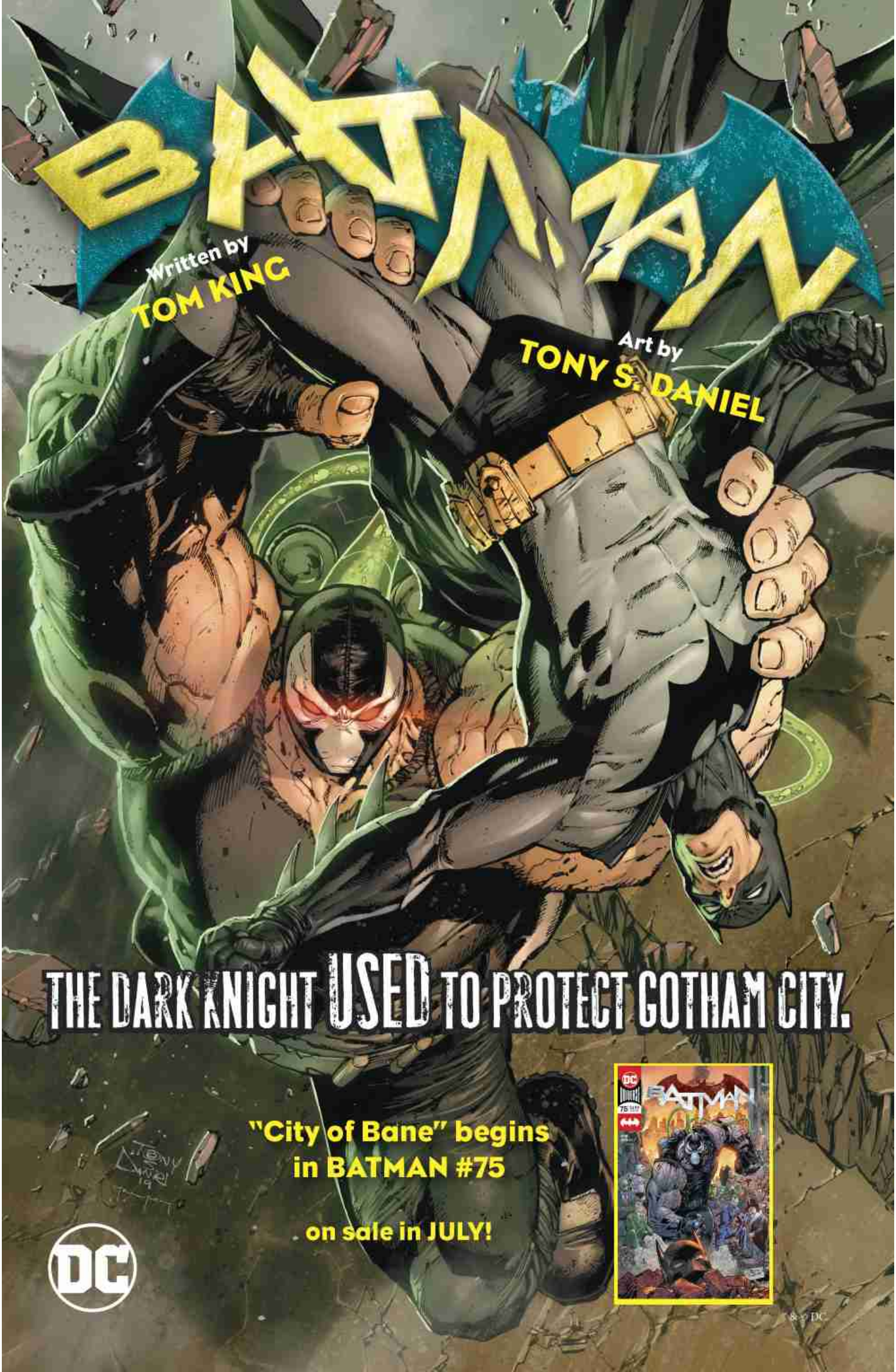
DC UNIVERSE
74
RATED T TEEN
DCCOMICS.COM
CHAPTER 5
YEAR ONE
The FLASH
WILLIAMSON
PORTER
HI-FI
OUT OF TIME


BATMAN
Written by
TOM KING
Art by
TONY S. DANIEL
THE DARK KNIGHT USED TO PROTECT GOTHAM CITY.
"City of Bane" begins
in BATMAN #75
on sale in JULY!
DC
BATMAN
75
TONY DANIEL 19
& © DC

Central City.
October 12.
EIGHT MONTHS AGO, LIGHTNING CRASHED THROUGH THE WINDOW OF MY LAB.
AND AS IMPOSSIBLE AS IT SOUNDS, THE ACCIDENT GAVE ME SUPERPOWERS.
THE ABILITY TO MOVE AND RUN FASTER THAN ANYONE ALIVE.

IT WAS THE CRAZIEST THING TO EVER HAPPEN TO ME.
UNTIL I ACCIDENTALLY RAN SO FAST, I TRAVELED TO THE FUTURE AND MET MYSELF.

THE FUTURE ME IS THIS AWESOME SUPERHERO CALLED THE FLASH. I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT...
...HOW COULD I EVER BECOME LIKE HIM?

HE WAS LOCKED IN AN ETERNAL BATTLE WITH A MONSTER CALLED THE TURTLE, WHO HAD CONQUERED CENTRAL CITY.
I HOPED IF I CHANGED THE PRESENT DAY, I COULD STOP THAT HORRIBLE FUTURE FROM HAPPENING.
BUT NEVER IN MY WILDEST DREAMS DID I THINK THAT FUTURE I WANTED TO AVOID...

...WOULD COME FIND ME.
FLASH!
LET US FINISH THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL! I WANT YOU TO SEE YOURSELF DIE.
I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME! COME HERE NOW!
CHAPTER FIVE: CROSSROADS
YEAR ONE
JOSHUA WILLIAMSON & HOWARD PORTER STORYTELLERS
HI-FI COLORIST STEVE WANDS LETTERER PORTER & HI-FI COVER
EVAN "DOC" SHANER VARIANT COVER ANDREW MARINO ASSOCIATE EDITOR
PAUL KAMINSKI EDITOR JAMIE S. RICH GROUP EDITOR

WE SHOULD GET BACK INSIDE, IRIS. AWAY FROM THE STREET.
IS THAT... THE *TURTLE*? HE LOOKS SO... DIFFERENT?
HE SHOULD BE LOCKED UP IN IRON HEIGHTS! HOW DID HE GET AN *ARMY*?!
IRIS, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
IRON HEIGHTS! THERE HAVE TO BE ANSWERS THERE!
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.
BARRY...I NEED TO GO. I NEED TO HELP.
SOMEONE *HAS* TO CHASE THE STORY.
I DON'T DO IT FOR THE HEADLINE. I DO IT BECAUSE PEOPLE DESERVE TO KNOW THE *TRUTH*.
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THAT.
IF YOU STAND STILL TO AVOID THE CRAZY, THE CRAZY WILL COME FOR YOU, BARRY!
THAT...THAT'S WHAT THE FLASH SAID TO ME IN THE FUTURE...
IRIS IS RIGHT. BUT...IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT IT'S GOING TO BE HARD TO RUN WHEN MY LEGS SHAKE FROM FRIGHT.

GAZE UPON YOUR HOME, FLASH!
IT WOULDN'T FEEL RIGHT WITHOUT YOU, MY ETERNAL FOE, MY FAITHFUL RIVAL. HERE TO WITNESS MY ULTIMATE VICTORY!
MOVE!
KING TURTLE DOESN'T LIKE TO--
AH!
WHOOOSHH
AAAK
CRAAAA
AH, THE YOUNG FLASH.
LATE.
BETTER LATE...
...THAN NEVER!

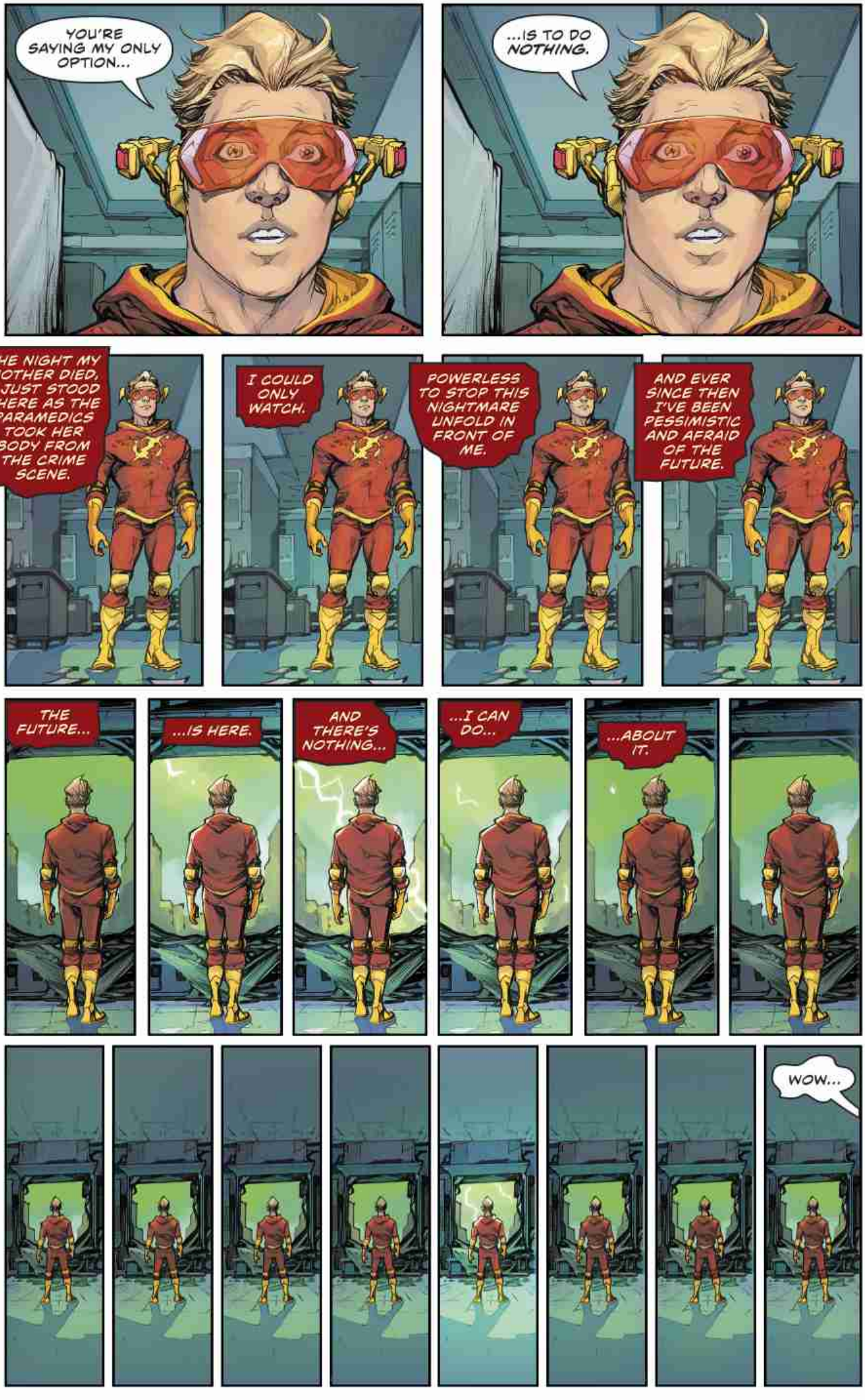
FWOOOM-KRAK
NO MATTER THE AGE, YOU ALWAYS RUSH INTO THINGS WITHOUT THINKING!
I HATE TO AGREE WITH HIM, BUT HE'S RIGHT.
NEED TO SLOW DOWN. USE MY SPEED AND MY HEAD.
YOU AND I HAVE DONE THIS BATTLE OVER EONS. OUR LEGACIES FOREVER INTERTWINED.
I KNOW YOUR EVERY MOVE!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU STAND A CHANCE?

YOU'RE DESTINED TO FAIL!
IT'S NOT BECAUSE YOU'RE YOUNG AND NAIVE.
IT'S BECAUSE TODAY IS THE DAY I TAKE YOUR HOPE!
NO!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
I WON'T--
"GIVE UP?"
I'VE HEARD THIS FROM YOU COUNTLESS TIMES BEFORE.
IT'S UP TO YOU WHETHER THIS TIME WILL BE DIFFERENT!
I'VE STOLEN THE ELDER FLASH'S SPEED. BUT I NEED MORE.
ONLY THEN WILL THE FORCES BE MINE!
GIVE ME YOUR SPEED NOW!

YOU SHOULD LEARN TO BE PATIENT, TURTLE!
WHAT DO I DO?!
DON'T LET HIM GET YOU, BARRY.
RUN! RUN AWAY NOW!
WHOOOSSHHH
FLASH...?
FIND HIM!
TODAY WILL BE THE FLASH'S FINAL RACE!
FLASH LEFT US, DAD.
I'M SCARED... IS EVERYTHING GOING TO BE OKAY?
I...I DON'T KNOW, SON.
NO PLACE IS SAFE. KING TURTLE'S SOLDIERS HAVE ALREADY SWARMED THE CITY.

SO I GO BACK TO WHERE THIS ALL STARTED...
OKAY, OKAY, YOU'RE HURT.
WHOOOSHH
I'M DYING, BARRY.
WHAT? WHAT HAPPENED?
AFTER YOU WENT BACK TO YOUR TIME, KING TURTLE MADE ME USE THE COSMIC TREADMILL TO FOLLOW YOU...BUT HE DRAINED MY SPEED AT THE SAME TIME...
...AND MY LIFE...
I KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN. I SAW IT BEFORE. WHEN I WAS YOU.
NO MATTER WHAT WE DO...WE LOSE TODAY.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
I WANTED YOU TO HAVE THIS TIME AS THE FLASH. BEFORE...KING TURTLE.
WHAT IS HE DOING?
TO SLOW DOWN TIME, KING TURTLE NEEDS TO BUILD A CONNECTION BETWEEN OUR TWO TIMES.
CONSTRUCTING A SHELL HERE CREATES A TETHER BETWEEN THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE...

"...WHICH HE CAN USE TO DRAG THE VERY FLOW OF TIME AND MOTION IN THE MULTIVERSE.
"IT'S LIKE PLACING AN ANCHOR IN THE PRESENT THAT WILL SLAM THE MULTIVERSE TO A SCREECHING HALT.
"TURTLE WANTS TO MAKE EVERYTHING LIKE *HIM*.
"TO FINISH THE CONNECTION HE NEEDS *SPEED*.
"I WISH WE COULD CHANGE THIS...BUT WE CAN'T BREAK THE LOOP WITHOUT RISKING A TIME PARADOX.
"SO YOU NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT HE *NEVER* GETS HIS HANDS ON YOU. HE CAN *NEVER* DRAIN YOUR SPEED.
"SAVE YOURSELF... OR RUN THE RISK OF DOOMING ALL OF REALITY TO *RUIN*."
"HE ALREADY STOLE *MY* SPEED.
"NOW HE NEEDS *YOU*.
ZESTY COLA
CENTRAL BANK


YOU'RE SAYING MY ONLY OPTION...
...IS TO DO NOTHING.
THE NIGHT MY MOTHER DIED, I JUST STOOD THERE AS THE PARAMEDICS TOOK HER BODY FROM THE CRIME SCENE.
I COULD ONLY WATCH.
POWERLESS TO STOP THIS NIGHTMARE UNFOLD IN FRONT OF ME.
AND EVER SINCE THEN I'VE BEEN PESSIMISTIC AND AFRAID OF THE FUTURE.
THE FUTURE...
...IS HERE.
AND THERE'S NOTHING...
...I CAN DO...
...ABOUT IT.
WOW...

MOM'S OLD COMICS. I HAVEN'T SEEN THESE IN AGES.
I DON'T REMEMBER THEM BEING IN OUR OFFICE.
WHAT? OH, I WAS--
YOU REALLY SHOULD'VE BAGGED AND BOARDED THESE, BARRY.
GOD, WE WANTED TO BE JUST LIKE THEM, DIDN'T WE?
A SUPERHERO. ALWAYS KNOWING WHAT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
AND I TRIED. EVERY DAY WAS AN ADVENTURE. BUT IT WASN'T WITHOUT FEAR.
I WAS AFRAID OF YOU, BARRY. MY PAST SELF. WHAT WOULD I SAY TO YOU? HOW COULD I EXPLAIN TO YOU HOW I LET THINGS GET SO BAD?
I KNOW YOU'RE AFRAID OF THE PAST, BARRY. I LIVED THAT, TOO. BUT NOW I LOOK BACK DOWN THE ROAD I RAN AND SEE REGRETS.
WHAT KIND OF REGRETS?
I DON'T WANT TO DWELL ON THOSE ANYMORE.
TELL ME ABOUT IRIS.
WHAT? KING TURTLE PLANS TO SLOW DOWN THE WORLD AND YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT IRIS?
HUMOR AN OLD MAN, BARRY. IT'S THE ONLY THING KEEPING ME GOING.
TELL ME ABOUT THAT FIRST DATE.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG FOR ME... I'VE FORGOTTEN SOME OF THE DETAILS. IT WAS BREAKFAST, RIGHT?
HA, YES AND NO. IT WAS DINNER, BUT WE ATE BREAKFAST FOOD.
IT WAS... THE DAY I FIRST FOUGHT THE TURTLE.
I WASN'T EVEN SURE IT WAS A DATE, BUT AFTER DINNER WE TOOK A WALK IN THE PARK.

*ALL MY LIFE I'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE, BUT WITH IRIS...AS WE WALKED...I LOST TRACK OF TIME.
*WE HAD TALKED FOR HOURS AND IT NEVER FELT AWKWARD OR FORCED.
*I KNEW THEN.
*SHE'S THE ONE.
*THE KIND OF PERSON YOU ONLY GET TO MEET ONCE IN A LIFETIME.
*ALWAYS BRAVE.
*NO MATTER THE RISK, SHE ALWAYS RUNS INTO DANGER.
IT'S ONE OF THE MANY THINGS I LOVE ABOUT HER.
THERE ARE DAYS I WISH THE LIGHTNING HIT *HER* INSTEAD OF ME.
SHE DOESN'T JUST *GROUND* ME.
SHE *INSPIRES* ME.

THAT'S WHY I'M GOING AFTER THE TURTLE.
IT'S NOT WORTH THE RISK, BARRY.
HE WANTS YOU TO RUN TOWARD HIM SO HE CAN STEAL YOUR SPEED.
IF HE WINS, HE WON'T JUST SLOW DOWN THE SPEED IN CENTRAL CITY, HE'LL BRING AN END TO THE WHOLE MULTIVERSE!
BUT...
YOU NEED TO TRUST ME!
WE LOSE CENTRAL CITY, BUT WE CAN'T RISK THE MULTIVERSE! THIS IS THE ONLY WAY!
FLASH
BAD THINGS MIGHT COME OF IT IN THE FUTURE, BUT I KNOW... MY HEROES WOULD NEVER LET SOMETHING LIKE THIS GET THEM DOWN.
THAT'S MY BARRY. ALWAYS HOPEFUL. WHATEVER HAPPENS IN THIS LIFE...NEVER LOSE THAT, PLEASE?
IF YOU DIE, THERE COULD BE NO FUTURE!
YOU NEED TO RUN AWAY!

THAT'S NOT WHAT HEROES DO!
I'M SORRY, BUT...
...YOU TOLD ME TO NEVER FORGET WHAT MOM SAID!
SO Y'KNOW WHAT...I'M NOT TAKING YOUR ADVICE.
I'M TAKING HERS!
I COULD LOSE. I COULD DIE. I COULD DESTROY THE WHOLE MULTIVERSE. SO I'M GOING TO DO THE ONE THING I KNOW HOW TO DO.

RUN.
FINALLY, MY LONG WAIT IS PAYING OFF.
EVERYONE WHO CALLED ME CRAZY WILL KNOW MY PAIN.
THEY WILL SEE HOW LONG LIFE REALLY IS... AND I WILL AT LAST BE FREE.
LET ME GO!
OH, IRIS WEST. IT'S BEEN TOO LONG.
YOU'LL BE THE PERFECT PERSON TO TELL MY STORY.
AS IT'S THE ONLY ONE THAT MATTERS.
YOU WANT AN INTERVIEW?
FINE.
WHY DO THIS? WHY DO ANY OF THIS?
IN THE MOMENTS BEFORE I WAS HIT BY THE ENERGY THAT TRANSFORMED ME, I SAW TRUE POWER. IT WAS LIKE STARING UPON THE FACE OF GOD.
I HAD TO TOUCH THE ENERGY AGAIN, BUT MY FAMILY... THEY WERE SCARED OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO ME.
THEY WERE HOLDING ME BACK FROM MY--
OH, WHATEVER. I CALL B.S. ON BLAMING YOUR FAMILY. THAT ISN'T THE REAL REASON.
HA. YOU ARE FEISTY, AREN'T YOU?
I KNOW YOUR FUTURE, MS. WEST. YOUR ROLE IN THINGS. YOUR FAMILY. YOUR DEATHS. I COULD TELL YOU YOUR STORY.
YOU'RE NOT TALKING TO ANYONE!

I'M DONE RUNNING FROM YOU!

THIS... THIS IS *new.*
ARE YOU FINALLY READY TO GIVE ME YOUR SPEED?
YOU'LL HAVE TO CATCH ME FIRST!
YOU THINK I DIDN'T PLAN FOR YOUR BRAVERY?
BUT I ADMIT I'M SURPRISED YOU WOULD RISK RUNNING RIGHT INTO BATTLE WITH ME AGAIN AFTER YOUR LAST ATTEMPT WAS FUTILE.
I'VE BEEN LUCKY TO HAVE PEOPLE IN MY LIFE TO TEACH ME THAT NO MATTER WHAT...HEROES NEVER GIVE UP.
CAN'T YOU SEE THAT YOU'VE ALREADY LOST?
CENTRAL CITY SLOWS TO A CRAWL.
"ITS PEOPLE ENSLAVED."
YOU REMEMBER WHAT THE FIRST THING I *EVER* SAID TO YOU WAS?
THAT IT WAS THE "END OF THE LINE."
WHICH REMINDS ME. YOU DID TEACH *ME* SOMETHING OVER ALL THESE YEARS.
THAT NOT *EVERYONE* HOLDS ME BACK.
SLOW...AND... STEADY...WINS THE RACE...

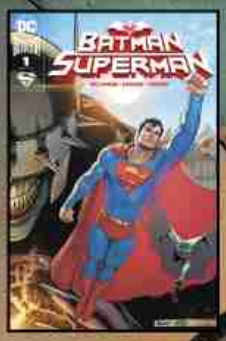
...AND THE FLASH DIES AT THE FINISH!
END CHAPTER FIVE
NEXT: THE DEATH OF THE FLASH!

CAN THEY DISCOVER WHICH HEROES
THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS HAS INFECTED
...BEFORE THEY DESTROY THE DC UNIVERSE?

BATMAN SUPERMAN

Written by JOSHUA WILLIAMSON Art by DAVID MARQUEZ

Get the Batman cover
OR the Superman version!



Turn the page to check out a preview of the first issue!

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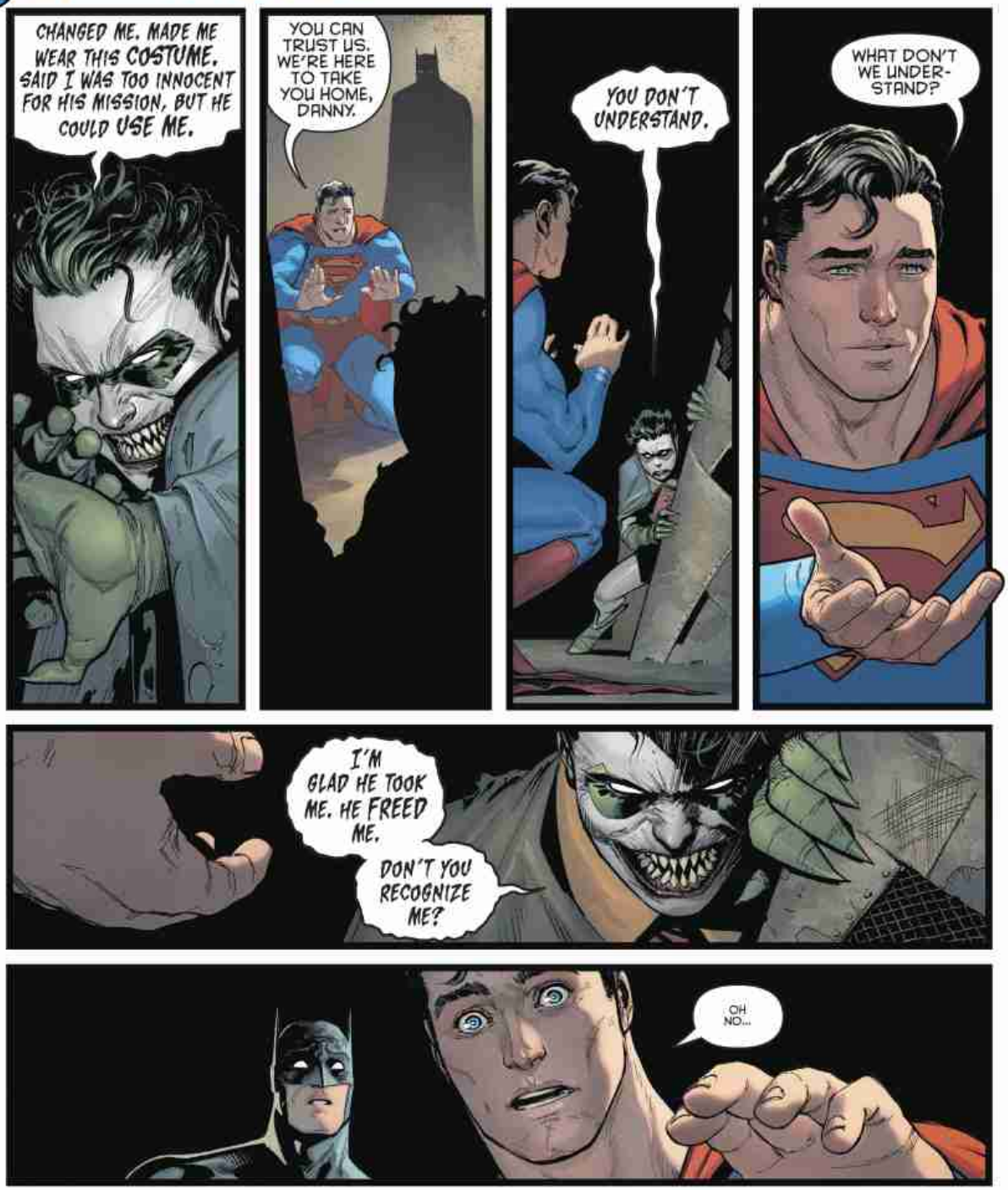
BATMAN SUPERMAN #1
Sneak Preview
IS THIS...?
IT'S HIS BATCAVE.
WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR INFORMATION ON THIS OTHER BATMAN?
HE TOLD ME HIMSELF.
WHEN I WAS A ROOKIE AT THE DAILY PLANET, PERRY USED TO TELL ME, "ALWAYS CONSIDER YOUR SOURCE."
-TT-
NO SIGNS OF DANNY, BUT THIS IS WHERE GORDON WAS HELD.
WE'LL GET DANNY HOME, BATMAN.
Y'KNOW, I ALWAYS THOUGHT OF YOUR BATCAVE AS A GLIMPSE INTO YOUR MIND.
THE FIRST TIME YOU BROUGHT ME THERE I SAW THE DINOSAUR, THE GIANT PENNY, THE COLLECTION OF BAT-MOBILES--
MEMENTOS OF YOUR PAST VICTORIES...
...AND FAILURES.
IT SHOWED ME HOW SENTIMENTAL YOU ARE.
YOU MEAN HUMAN.
I MEAN YOU ARE NOTHING LIKE THIS BATMAN WHO LAUGHS.
I WISH THAT WERE TRUE...
BATMAN created by Bob Kane with Bill Finger.
SUPERMAN created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster by special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel Family.

DC Sneak Preview
...BUT I RECOGNIZE MY OWN HANDI-WORK.
BATARANG MOLDS?
THE SERUM HE CREATED WHEN HE KIDNAPPED GORDON AND KILLED THE OTHER BRUCE WAYNES WAS SIMILAR IN COMPOSITION TO THE TOXIN THAT TRANSFORMED HIM INTO THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS.
TRACES OF THAT SERUM...
...MERGED WITH NTH METAL.
100% MATCH
WHY BRING GORDON HERE? SEND SOMEONE TO KIDNAP DANNY MILLS?
HE HAD TO KNOW YOU'D FIND HIS BATCAVE. MAYBE THAT WAS THE POINT.
IF YOU'RE RIGHT AND HE'S JUST LIKE YOU, THAT MEANS HE HIDES THINGS IN PLAIN SIGHT, RIGHT?
THIS IS A MESSAGE.
BOTH SIDES ARE AT A DRAW.
ANY MOVE FROM EITHER PLAYER WOULD RESULT IN A LOSS.
PA AND I USED TO PLAY EVERY SUNDAY AFTER FOOTBALL.
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE STOP PLAYING THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS' GAMES?
BEEP

DC Sneak Preview
TSSSSSSHHH
THE JUSTICE LEAGUE. THE TITANS, TEEN TITANS. MY GOD... IT'S...
...EVERYONE.
ANY OF THEM COULD POTENTIALLY BE TARGETS FOR HIS INFECTED BATARANGS... CHANGED INTO A MONSTER LIKE HIM.
THIS IS BIGGER THAN GOTHAM, BATMAN.
YOU SAID "POTENTIALLY"...
...BUT WHAT IF HE'S ALREADY POISONED PEOPLE WE KNOW?
THIS IS WHY HE WANTED US HERE. WE'D QUESTION EVERYONE. OUR FRIENDS. OUR FAMILIES.
SO WE'D HAVE NO IDEA WHO WE CAN TRUST.

DC Sneak Preview
CAW!
NGH.
CAW!
CAW!
CAW!
ONE OF HIS ROBINS?! BUT WHERE DID HE--
TOOK ME FROM MY FAMILY.
HIT ME WITH A BATARANG.

DC Sneak Preview


CHANGED ME. MADE ME WEAR THIS COSTUME. SAID I WAS TOO INNOCENT FOR HIS MISSION, BUT HE COULD USE ME.
YOU CAN TRUST US. WE'RE HERE TO TAKE YOU HOME, DANNY.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
WHAT DON'T WE UNDERSTAND?
I'M GLAD HE TOOK ME. HE FREED ME.
DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME?
OH NO...
MY NAME'S BILLY.
BILLY BATSON.

To be Continued in

BATMAN SUPERMAN #1

On Sale in August

BATMAN CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT

A DC NATION INTERVIEW WITH WRITER/ARTIST SEAN MURPHY

What can you tell us about the story?
If you think Jack Napier was unhinged in BATMAN: WHITE KNIGHT, that's nothing compared to what Joker does with Azrael in BATMAN: CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT. As Bruce struggles with the idea of telling Gotham the identity of Batman, Joker threatens to expose a hidden truth about the Wayne family. Something that even Bruce isn't aware of. Something that goes all the way to the founding of Gotham village in 1685.

Why are you excited about this project?
I'm interested in going deep into the past of the Wayne family and how they've come to power in modern-day Gotham. BATMAN: WHITE KNIGHT focused a lot on the present; BATMAN: CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT will focus more on the deep past. And if there's a third series, my plan is to focus on the future of Batman.

What's it like to be both the writer and artist on this series (along with your collaboration with Matt Hollingsworth)?
It's a lot of work, but it's the most satisfying way for me to make comics. Writing the scripts is also a great way to ensure the artwork is the best I can make it. I always put 100 percent into my books, but being the writer makes me strive for 110 percent.

How does this tie into the current DC Universe?
This book is set aside from the current DCU. It's marketed like a Batman movie: a familiar Batman but with a different spin. One that doesn't require the reader to be fluent in 80 years of Batman comics.

Why should fans check this out?
Readers should check this out because it's slightly different from what they're used to reading about Batman. And there aren't many "single vision" mainstream books these days (meaning the writing and art are handled by the same person).

Describe the series in seven words or fewer.
If you miss this, you'll regret it.

What should first-time readers know before picking this up?
Nothing! You can come to this series without ever having read a comic.

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